

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 12, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 67

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

June 24, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 67, as amended, Alejo. State highways: designations.

This measure would designate portions of State Highway Routes ~~152~~, 1, 129, and 101 in the Counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz as the ~~Dolores Huerta~~ *John Steinbeck* Highway, the Senator Henry J. Mello Highway, the Oscar Rios Highway, and the Gateway to the Pinnacles Highway, respectively.

The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing each of these special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost of the signs for which the donations were made, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, ~~Dolores Huerta, born April 10, 1930, is a labor~~
2 ~~leader and civil rights activist who, along with César Chávez,~~
3 ~~cofounded the National Farmworkers Association, which later~~
4 ~~became the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), and gained~~
5 ~~national attention after Huerta led a boycott of table grapes in the~~
6 ~~1960s; and~~

7 WHEREAS, ~~Dolores Huerta has received numerous awards for~~
8 ~~her community service and advocacy for workers', immigrants',~~

1 and womens' rights, including the Eugene V. Debs Foundation
2 Outstanding American Award, the United States Presidential
3 Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights, and the Presidential
4 Medal of Freedom; and

5 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta spent time in the City of
6 Watsonville organizing farmworkers for fair treatment; and

7 WHEREAS, The 1960s boycott of table grapes led by Dolores
8 Huerta was supported by an estimated 17 million Americans, and
9 brought the plight of farmworkers into the public eye, leading to
10 the passage of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act,
11 which allowed farmworkers the right to organize and bargain for
12 better working conditions and higher wages; and

13 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta also helped lead a 10-year effort
14 to gain amnesty for farmworkers who had lived, worked, and paid
15 taxes in the United States, resulting in the Immigration Reform
16 and Control Act of 1986, which granted amnesty to 1.4 million
17 farmworkers; and

18 WHEREAS, After leaving the UFW in 2002, Dolores Huerta
19 focused her attention on a host of other issues, including
20 immigration, ensuring Latino children receive quality educations,
21 feminism, equality for women, and reproductive freedom; and

22 WHEREAS, As the president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation,
23 Dolores Huerta organizes forums and programs that focus on social
24 justice and public policy issues, as well as encouraging people to
25 participate in elections to help choose their representatives; and

26 WHEREAS, John Ernst Steinbeck, Jr., was born on February
27 27, 1902, in Salinas, California, and is one of the most influential
28 and memorable American authors of the 20th century; and

29 WHEREAS, John Steinbeck's work has attracted people from
30 around the world to visit the central coast of California, the
31 Monterey Bay, and the Salinas Valley in which many of his works
32 are set; and

33 WHEREAS, John Steinbeck has brought fame and honor to the
34 United States as a distinguished writer whose fiction is
35 representative of the vitality and unique qualities of the American
36 people; and

37 WHEREAS, John Steinbeck's writing is known for its keen
38 perception of the times, which has helped shed light on some of
39 the economic and social problems of migrant workers in rural
40 America; and

1 *WHEREAS, John Steinbeck was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in*
2 *1940, the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962, and the United States*
3 *Medal of Freedom in 1964 for his cultural contributions as a*
4 *novelist, journalist, historian, and social commentator; and*

5 *WHEREAS, John Steinbeck's widely celebrated literary works*
6 *include 16 novels, a collection of short stories, four screenplays,*
7 *various journalistic essays, three travel narratives, a translation,*
8 *and two published journals; and*

9 *WHEREAS, State Senator Henry J. Mello, born and raised in*
10 *Watsonville, was the son of Portuguese immigrant parents, and*
11 *attended Watsonville High School in Watsonville and Hartnell*
12 *College in Salinas; and*

13 *WHEREAS, In the 1940s, Henry Mello helped start the Mello*
14 *Packing Company, a family apple business, and became involved*
15 *in public service as a member of the California Agricultural*
16 *Advisory Board; and*

17 *WHEREAS, Henry Mello was elected as a Santa Cruz County*
18 *supervisor in 1966, to the Assembly in 1976, and to the Senate in*
19 *1980, and represented the Counties of Santa Cruz and San Benito,*
20 *as well as parts of the Counties of Monterey and Santa Clara in*
21 *the Legislature until 1996; and*

22 *WHEREAS, Henry Mello quickly rose to leadership positions*
23 *by his appointment to the Senate Rules Committee and his election*
24 *as Majority Whip and later as Majority Leader, and authored 726*
25 *bills, of which 456 were signed into law, with 120 of those bills*
26 *focused on senior issues; and*

27 *WHEREAS, Henry Mello was proud of his creation of the*
28 *California Senior Legislature and authorship of legislation dealing*
29 *with Alzheimers, including bills on respite care, adult day health*
30 *care, and prevention of senior abuse; and*

31 *WHEREAS, Henry Mello was known by his colleagues as a*
32 *tough negotiator and for his dedication to his district and*
33 *constituents; and*

34 *WHEREAS, After leaving the Senate, Henry Mello worked*
35 *with the Department of Transportation to prioritize the construction*
36 *of one of the most important projects within the state highway*
37 *system, an overpass to improve traffic safety on the dangerous*
38 *intersection of State Highway Route 1 and Salinas Road; and*

39 *WHEREAS, Henry Mello's legacy in the Pajaro Valley and*
40 *California will forever be remembered; and*

1 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios was born in El Salvador in 1950, and
2 in 1960 his family emigrated to San Francisco, where he became
3 a United States citizen, later moving to Watsonville in 1985; and

4 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios became the regional organizer for La
5 Alianza, a nonprofit agency that provides advocacy referral and
6 citizenship processing, and was an organizer during the Watsonville
7 cannery strikes that lasted from 1985 to 1987, the longest cannery
8 strikes in United States history, and that were led primarily by
9 women cannery workers; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1989, Oscar Rios was elected to the Watsonville
11 City Council just after the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
12 struck down Watsonville's discriminatory at-large election system
13 and implemented district elections in the landmark federal voting
14 rights case of Gomez v. City of Watsonville; and

15 WHEREAS, When Oscar Rios became Watsonville's mayor in
16 1992, he ~~also~~ became the first mayor of any United States city of
17 Salvadorean descent, and quickly earned a reputation as an
18 energetic and accessible leader, and ~~also~~ *he* became a founding
19 member of the Latino Caucus of the League of California Cities;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios worked to build a successful partnership
22 with Watsonville's local school district, resulting in the creation
23 of more parks and playgrounds, and also worked with
24 Watsonville's business community to create hundreds of new jobs;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios also led voter registration drives through
27 the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and worked
28 on numerous campaigns to get other Latinos elected to political
29 office, and continues to organize for Latino empowerment locally
30 and statewide; and

31 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios served 17 years on the Watsonville
32 City Council and is the longest serving Latino city councilmember
33 in the history of the County of Santa Cruz, having retired from the
34 council on December 11, 2012; and

35 WHEREAS, Oscar Rios continues to be employed as a Teamster
36 Union Business Agent for Local 890 in Salinas; and

37 WHEREAS, The City of Soledad is the "Gateway to the
38 Pinnacles," located only five miles from Pinnacles National Park,
39 which became the nation's 59th National Park on January 10, 2013,

1 by an act of Congress signed into law by President Barack Obama;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The City of Soledad is also located near the Spanish
4 Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad (the Mission of Our Lady
5 of Solitude), founded on October 9, 1791, as the 13th of 21
6 missions in California; and

7 WHEREAS, The City of Soledad is a great destination for
8 tourists, located in one of the primary wine grape growing regions
9 of California, with over 20 vineyards and wineries within a 30-mile
10 radius; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
12 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the*
13 *portion of State Highway Route 152 from Carlton Road to the*
14 *junction with State Highway Route 1 via Main Street, in the City*
15 *of Watsonville, as the Dolores Huerta Highway; and be it further*
16 *1 from the Pajaro River to Struve Road, including the new Salinas*
17 *Road overcrossing, in the County of Monterey, as the Senator*
18 *Henry J. Mello Highway; and be it further*

19 ~~*Resolved, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of*~~
20 ~~*State Highway Route 1 from the Pajaro River to Struve Road,*~~
21 ~~*including the new Salinas Road overcrossing, in the County of*~~
22 ~~*Monterey, as the Senator Henry J. Mello Highway; and be it further*~~

23 *Resolved, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of*
24 *State Highway Route 129 from Blackburn Street to the junction*
25 *with State Highway Route 1 at Riverside Drive in the City of*
26 *Watsonville as the Oscar Rios Highway; and be it further*

27 *RESOLVED, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion*
28 *of State Highway Route 101 from Sala Road to John Street in the*
29 *City of Salinas as the John Steinbeck Highway; and be it further*

30 *Resolved, That the Legislature hereby designates the portion of*
31 *State Highway Route 101 from Exit 305 at Camphora Gloria Road*
32 *to Exit 301 at Arroyo Seco Road in the County of Monterey as the*
33 *Gateway to the Pinnacles Highway; and be it further*

34 *Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested*
35 *to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the*
36 *signing requirements for the state highway system for each of these*
37 *special designations and, upon receiving donations from nonstate*
38 *sources sufficient to cover the cost of the signs for which the*
39 *donations were made, to erect those signs; and be it further*

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
- 3 for appropriate distribution.